

"The Riot"

E.A.-1

The march which Dr. Martin L. King and local civil rights leaders were leading to city hall last March 28, 1968, erupted into violence. Two-hundred (approx) young belligerents started smashing windows and looting. The march was organized with a definite purpose in mind. But these few young people didn't seem to care about that.

The actions of these belligerents cause the people who are not directly associated with the movement to look on the entire situation with disgust and contempt and as a result they do nothing to help the cause. The violent and irresponsible acts of these people should not overshadow acts of ~~those~~<sup>our</sup> people who have real cause for grievance. I saw these thugs on the sideline start the trouble not the marchers. These people do not understand the reason why we demonstrate, if they did, they do care about this cause. Their main purpose I think was to cause chaos so that they benefit by looting.



Later that evening when the march was about two hours ~~passed~~ <sup>passed</sup>, I had an opportunity to see a small Sunday store get looted. Neighbors in a certain community when I arrived on the scene were already inside the store. I personally had a very strong impulse to go in and get me something for nothing. But, after seeing a little girl come out with a half-gallon box of Sealtest Ice-Cream and an old man with two quarts of Bush-Beer I resolved that the prize was not worth getting my head bursted or even getting shot over.

During the excitement a helicopter passed over and I knew from previous experiences that it was time to go. However before I could get forty-yards away the street was filled with law-enforcement officers they chased the looters but most got away. For that I thank God, because what they did to the ones



The Riot" (Cont.)

E.H.T

I think the riot was a definite  
advantage to the Negro cause because  
it brought forth new bills in congress  
and talk to settle the whole Negro situation